CANADA

BUDGET SPEECH

DELIVERED BY

HON. GEORGE E. FOSTER, D.C.L., M.P.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

IN THE

HOUSE OF COMMONS

TUESDAY, 22ND MARCH

1892

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SUPPLY—THE BUDGET.

REVENUE, 1890-91.

Mr. FOSTER moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of Supply. He said: In making my financial statement last year, I estimated that the revenue for 1890-91 would amount to $38,858,701. The revenue which actually accrued fell short of that by $279,391, and was distributed as follows:—

Customs	$23,399,300
Excise	6,914,850
Miscellaneous	8,265,160
Total	$38,579,310

Comparing these items and total revenue with the result of 1889-90, we find a Customs decrease of $589,653, an Excise decrease of $703,268, and a decrease in Miscellaneous of $27,694. The decrease in Customs is spread over a number of items, which I will read:

Animals	$ 9,710
Books, periodicals, &c	15,420
Breadstuffs	151,743
Cement	5,079
Clocks and springs	10,512
Crapes	3,505
Earthenware and china	21,009
Fancy goods	90,941
Fish and products of	5,154
Furs	19,515
Glass	19,569
Gold and silver and manufactures of	4,299
Gunpowder and explosives	4,058
Gutta percha and India rubber and manufactures of	26,448
Iron and steel and manufactures of	194,564
Jewellery	18,600
Lead and manufactures of	8,331
Leather and manufactures of	42,856
Musical instruments	3,106
Packages	16,516
Paper and manufactures of	19,029
Pickles	24,519
Provisions	104,459
Seeds and roots	30,398
Silk and manufactures of	51,342
Soap	$ 4,608
Spirits and wines	148,073
Molasses	76,212
Sugar candy	2,876
Tin and manufactures of	9,213
Varnish	7,877
Vegetables	14,498
Watches and parts of	21,558
Wood and manufactures of	59,995
Wool and manufactures of	199,251

The following are some of the principal items from which increased Customs duties were received last year, the principal being sugar:—

Ale, beer and porter	$ 5,786
Brass and manufactures of	13,070
Bricks and tiles	4,813
Carriages	4,224
Coal and coke	115,627
Copper and manufactures of	28,450
Cordage	6,114
Drugs, dyes and chemicals	24,532
Flax, hemp and jute and manufactures of	4,315
Fruits and nuts, dried	11,740
do green	21,232
Gloves and mitts	13,648
Hats, caps and bonnets	66,657
Metal, composition and other	4,446
Oils, coal and kerosene and products of	5,533
Oils, all other	43,986
Ships, vessels, and repairs on	3,762
Sugar	290,744
Tea	3,886
Tobacco and manufactures of	31,136
All other articles not specified	225,982

There was a decrease in the sugar duties over the normal year preceding, 1888-89; and if it had not been for the displacement and disturbance which arose consequent upon the change of sugar duties in the United States and the idea that a corresponding change would be made in our own tariff, there is no doubt the Customs duties derived therefrom would have been far larger than they were, instead of falling, as they did, far short of those of 1888-89. Excise shows a large decrease of $703,268, but that is more nominal than real. The law which makes it

necessary that spirits should be kept two years in tank for aging purposes came into effect the 1st of July, 1890, and a large amount of spirits was withdrawn in anticipation, the duties upon which would have amounted to probably $500,000. This would have gone naturally, but for that circumstance, into the Excise duties of the year we are considering. In the Miscellaneous a small decrease, as compared with the preceding year, is shown, namely, $27,694. The total decrease amounts to $1,320,615. With reference to Excise, the following table shows the course of business for two years :—

TABLE showing the Quantities taken out and the Duties accrued.

—	1889-90, Quantity	1890-91, Quantity	1889-90, Duty Accrued.	1890-91, Duty Accrued.	Increase or Decrease.
	Gals.	Gals.	$	$	$
Spirits...	3,574,799 Lbs.	2,708,841 Lbs.	1,617,643	3,544,191	1,073,452
Malt	54,974,013 No.	57,909,201 No.	557,021	588,593	+31,572
Cigars.	98,810,725	101,117,080	593,710	605,017	+11,307
Cigarettes.	28,990,440 Lbs.	36,086,609 Lbs.	43,508	54,737	+11,229
Tobacco and Snuff	9,802,951	9,688,643	1,859,621	1,869,895	+10,274

This shows that the quantity of spirits taken from bond in 1889-90 amounted to 3,574,799 gallons. In 1890-91 the quantity taken out was 2,708,841 gallons, and the decrease in the accrued duty of 1890-91, as compared with 1889-90, was over $1,000,000. All the other articles of Excise, malt, cigars, cigarettes, tobacco, and snuff, show an increase over the preceding year. Malt shows an increase of $31,572 in accrued duties ; cigars show an increase of $11,307 in accrued duties ; cigarettes show an increase of $11,229 ; and tobacco and snuff an increase of $19,274 in accrued duties. It might be as well to keep up the table which has been presented for several years in our financial statements as to the *per capita* consumption of liquors and tobacco, as shown by the Excise reports. The following are the figures :—

PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF LIQUORS AND TOBACCO.

—	Spirits.	Beer.	Wine.	Tobacco.
	Gals.	Gals.	Gals.	Lbs.
Average from 1867....	1·151	2·708	·140	2·128
do 1889-90..	·883	3·360	·104	2·143
do 1890-91..	·866	3·282	·102	2·033

EXPENDITURE, 1890-91.

When we come to the expenditures of 1890-91, which were estimated at $36,000,000, we find that the actual expenditure exceeded that amount by $343,567, giving a total actual expenditure of $36,343,567. Although the expenditure last year shows an increase of this amount over the estimate, the expenditure itself is $574,267 less than the expenditure in 1888-89. The chief items in which there was an increase of expenditure, as compared with the preceding year, are as follows :—

Premium, Discount and Exchange	$ 33,285
Sinking Fund	50,841
Civil Government	25,366
Administration of Justice	16,808
Arts, Agriculture and Statistics	4,655
Census	252,134
Fisheries	45,309
Geological Survey	8,523
Immigration	70,954
Quarantine	4,968
Lighthouse and Coast Service	26,481
Mail Subsidies and Steamship Subventions	34,802
Miscellaneous	7,729
N. W. Territories Government	68,545
Ocean and River Service	35,231
Penitentiaries	3,319
Collection of Revenue—Customs	27,061
do Excise	15,240
do Post Office	87,266
do Public Works	10,235
do Railways & Canals	143,316
do Weights, Measures and Gas	3,655

A large increase took place owing to the census, for which there was an item of $252,154. The next largest item is in the collection of revenue, Railways and Canals, which shows an increase of $143,316. The increase in expenditure, therefore, as compared with the preceding year, is almost entirely due to the abnormal and large expenditure incurred in taking the census. The decreases were as follows :—

Interest on Public Debt	$ 72,705
Charges of Management	1,625
Indians	120,389
Legislation	335,701
Marine Hospitals	6,562
Militia and Defence	7,509
Mounted Police	12,114
Pensions	3,541
Public Works	34,956
Railways and Canals	15,106
Culling Timber	2,182
Dominion Lands	15,091

Decreases took place in the expenditure on the interest on the Public Debt of $72,705, due to the retirement of stock bearing 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 4 per cent and replaced by money borrowed at about 3½ per cent. In Charges of Management there is a slight decrease of $1,625. In the care of Indians, there is a large decrease, amounting to $120,389. In the Mounted Police there is a decrease of $12,114. As far as these decreases are concerned, they are permanent as regards Mounted Police and Indians and,

in the matter of the Public Debt, so far as the principal involved is concerned, while the increases are largely abnormal in their character and are not likely to occur again, the census being likely to be finished during the current year. Summing up, then, we have as a revenue for the past year $38,579,310, and an expenditure of $36,343,567, which leaves us with a surplus on Consolidated Fund account of $2,235,742. If it were not for the item of Capital Expenditures, this surplus would remain in hand for a decrease of the debt, but during the past year there was expended on capital account the following amounts:—

Railways and Canals	$2,502,409
Public Works	515,702
Dominion Lands	94,847
N. W. Rebellion Losses	2,901
	$3,115,859
Railway Subsidies	1,265,705
	$4,381,564

Comparing this with the previous year, 1889-90, we find that the expenditure then on capital account was $5,731,354, as against $4,381,564 in 1890-91, making a saving in favour of the latter year of $1,349,790. The net result, therefore, of the operation of the year, is that we have provided for the ordinary expenses and services of the country out of the Consolidated Fund, we have laid up in the Sinking Fund, which is of course practically a reduction of the debt, $1,938,078, we have provided for capital expenditures, including railway subsidies, $4,381,564, and we have been able to do that with an addition to the debt of only $275,818.

COMPARATIVE RESULTS, 1887-88 TO 1890-91.

Hon gentlemen may remember that in 1889, on the occasion of my first Budget speech, I made a forecast as follows: That I thought the time had come for equalizing revenue and expenditure, and that, by the time we entered 1892, we should have reduced the revenue and expenditure to a balance, and from that time on we should have sufficient as a surplus from Consolidated Revenue Fund to pay the ordinary capital expenditure which was necessary for the country from year to year. That forecast has so far been fulfilled, and if it had not been that we took off the duties on raw sugar last year, involving a loss of over $3,000,000 in that item of revenue alone, we should have been able to come up to the end of 1892 without one dollar of increase of debt since 1889, and with more than half a million of decrease in our permanent debt. It may not be uninteresting to the House to take a review of the four years just past in order to show by a bird's-eye view the financial operations of the country during that time. This will readily appear from the following table:—

	1887-88	1888-89	1889-90	1890-91
	$	$	$	$
Expenditure on Consolidated Fund	36,718,464	36,917,834	35,994,031	36,343,567
Expenditure on Capital (not including railway subsidies)	4,437,460	4,420,313	4,063,159	3,115,860
Revenue, Consolidated Fund	35,386,463	38,782,870	39,870,925	38,579,310
Surplus or Deficit	810,031	+1,865,035	+3,885,893	+2,235,742
Increase of debt	274,551,288	276,416,323	276,301,111	237,809,030
Increase of net debt	1,810,282	2,230,041	2,275,859	275,818
Net interest paid	8,891,288	8,843,539	8,574,570	8,506,908
Rate of interest on gross debt	3·45	3·52	3·37	3·35
do do net do	3·12	3·16	2·99	2·93
Net interest *per capita* (revised)	1·90	1·86	1·79	1·75

It will be seen that, during those four years, the expenditure on Consolidated Fund account has kept remarkably even, being on an average about $36,000,000 each year. On capital account, not including railway subsidies, we expended in 1887-88, $4,437,460; in 1888-89, $4,420,313; in 1889-90, $4,033,159; and in 1890-91, $3,115,860; the amount for 1890-91 being $1,321,600 less than was expended in 1887-88, which again is in the proper direction. The revenue, also, has been buoyant, rising from $36,908,463 in 1887-88 to $38,579,310 in 1890-91. There was one deficit incurred contrary to the convictions and the traditions of the party, which occurred in 1887-88, but which was due to abnormal conditions and amounted to $810,031; but the subsequent years showed a surplus of $1,865,035 in 1888-89, $3,885,893 in 1889-90, and $2,235,742 in 1890-91. The net debt has remained at about the same figure, and is now $237,809,030. The net debt increase in the last two years has been only $275,818. The net interest paid has decreased from 1887-88, having been $8,891,288 in that year, $8,843,539 in 1888-89, $8,574,570 in 1889-90 and $8,506,908 in 1890-91. That is to say, in the four years the net interest paid has decreased by about $400,000. The rate of interest on the gross debt has also decreased continuously as well as on the net debt, and while it stood at 3·45 on the gross debt in 1887-88, it is now only 3·35, while the interest on the net debt has decreased from

3·12 in the first year to 2·93 in the last year. The net interest *per capita* required to carry the debt according to the revision consequent upon the census statement, was $1.90 in 1887-88 and $1.76 in 1890-91. This, in brief, shows the operation of the finances of the country during the last four years, and I have no hesitation in presenting it to the House and to the country as a conservative statement full of hope and promise as to the ability and the capacity of this country, in the first place to keep its expenses fairly within reasonable limits, and at the same time to carry on without undue stint the public and necessary services of the country.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE, 1891-92.

Coming now to 1891-92, the current year, the receipts up to the 20th March were $25,459,000. From the 20th March, 1890, to the end of the last fiscal year the receipts were $11,396,000. But of course there have been changes which will necessitate my making a different estimate for the time between the 20th March, 1892 and the end of this fiscal year. The expected increase in Excise for the remaining four months, or about that time, as compared with the like period of last year, is estimated at $350,000, and the expected decrease in sugar duties for that time is estimated at $550,000. So, provided that the trade of the country goes on upon about the same basis as last year, and making an allowance for these two items, we may expect for the remainder of the term from the 20th March to the 1st July, $11,196,000 of revenue. That, added to what has accrued up to the 20th March, will give for the current year an estimated revenue of $36,655,000, divided probably as follows:—Customs, $20,500,000; Excise, $7,900,000; Miscellaneous, $8,265,000. On that basis of calculation the revenue from Customs paid by the people of the country this year will be, in round numbers, $3,000,000 less than that paid last year, which was about the amount of actual taxation taken off in the repeal of the duties of raw sugar. The Excise will net, probably, about $1,000,000 more than the past year. The Miscellaneous I have estimated at about the same. Coming to the expenditure for 1891-92, up to the 20th March we have expended $23,206,000, and I estimate for expenditure up to the end of June, $13,450,000, which will make a total estimated expenditure for the current year of $36,650,000, which is just about the same as my estimate of revenue, leaving a small balance to the good, if we come out upon that basis. That is, the House is to understand that under present conditions of tariff and revenue, as long as they remain, we must not expect much surplus. We may expect an average income of about $36,500,000. We must cut our garments according to our cloth, and keep our expenditure within that amount. The estimate for 1892-93 is as follows:—Customs, $20,500,000; Excise, $8,000,000; Miscellaneous, $8,000,000, making in all $36,500,000. So much with reference to that.

TEMPORARY LOANS.

Last year, as the House already knows, temporary loans had to be incurred to the amount of $7,786,666. These were of course, made for the purpose of meeting redemption of debt, as last year the total addition to the net debt was only some $3,000. We have running now, as the House was informed a few days ago, $9,753,333 in temporary loans. I may take a moment to explain as to the items of redemption which made these loans necessary. First, there has been the drain upon the savings banks of the country, owing to the change of interest from 4 per cent to 3½ per cent, and perhaps to other causes more general in their nature. In 1889-90, there was withdrawn from the savings banks of the country $1,943,892 more than the deposits, plus the accrued interest for the year. In 1890-91, the sum thus withdrawn was $1,612,438, a reduction of about $300,000; and I estimate that for the current year there will be nothing withdrawn in excess of the deposits, plus the accrued interest, but that rather, from the indications of the last eight months, we will have a sum to the good, striking a balance between these two items. These, however, make a sum of $3,500,000 which was practically a redemption of debt, and had to be met and was met out of these temporary loans. For redemption of debt proper, we redeemed in 1889-90, $3,577,348; in 1890-91, $1,905,964; in 1891-92, $1,937,795; in 1892-93, $2,178,960 will be redeemed, making a total amount of $9,600,067 for redemption of debt to be met out of temporary loans. Then the capital expenditure, the increase of debt for the two preceding years, the net increase of debt for the current year and the next year, have to be met as well; so that in addition to the $9,753,333, which is at present running as a temporary loan, probably some $5,000,000 will have to be provided either by temporary or by permanent loan. As I mentioned to my hon. friend who questioned me on this point the other day, whether these temporary loans shall be continued as they are, or as they can best be continued, or whether it will be thought advisable to go upon the market for a permanent loan to meet and wipe out all these temporary loans, will be dependent upon the indications of the money market, and the present is not a time at which I

can definitely say what these indications will advise. To show that whatever may have been the reduction in the Government savings banks in 1889-90 and 1890-91, it was not due to a diminution in the savings and deposits of the people, I have here a table which I think will give satisfaction to the House. This shows the total :

DEPOSITS IN BANKS.

—	May 31, '90	May 31, '91	Feb. 29, '92
	$	$	$
In P.O. Savings Banks..	21,357,554	21,130,429	21,686,074
In Dom. Savings Banks	18,488,290	17,114,889	16,929,825
In Charter'd Banks payable on demand	51,440,101	56,522,473	60,029,923
In Charter'd Banks payable after notice or on a fixed day.....	74,629,147	84,679,400	93,394,227
City and District Savings Bank, and Caisse d' Economie.....	10,778,164	10,994,546	11,928,669
Totals.....	176,703,258	190,441,739	203,968,719

This tells us that whereas the year ending May 31, 1891, witnessed a decrease of over $1,600,000 in deposits in the Government banks the 8 months of the current year show an increase of nearly $400,000 in these deposits, while the total increase in all banks is, for the 8 months, $13,526,980, and for the 20 months $27,265,461. Whatever course may be adopted as to these temporary loans it is satisfactory to know that there are indications from the records of the past two years of some trial and difficulty, that in the money markets at home the credit of Canada stands well. First, our stocks and securities, while participating in the general fall which took place a year or so ago, owing to well-known causes, have speedily recovered and maintained themselves since in advance of the securities and stocks of every other colonial market.

SIR RICHARD'S LETTER IN THE "ECONOMIST."

I think it is not amiss for me, at this point, to take notice of what I consider a somewhat remarkable, as it is, I am happy to say, an unprecedented, circumstance, with reference to our position and standing in the old country. Hon. gentlemen know well on this side of the House that during the last three or four years we have had to meet in the United States of America malign influences emanating from certain persons in Canada, pointing out to those who are not very friendly to us on that side of the line, the way in which Canada could be the most effectually stricken and in what interests she might be most especially hurt. And those intimations, sent often direct, sent often through agents, and influential agents, sent quite as often in the published speeches of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, have had their effect, and it has happened that in the legislation which has supervened Canada has been hit at exactly those points pointed out in the way I have mentioned. But, Sir, it had not been known previously that the scene of operations was to be transferred from this country and carried to the mother country, where the credit and reputation of Canada are of much importance to us, and contribute greatly to our prestige and our prosperity. But, Sir, it has so been determined and the first attack has been delivered. The time of the attack was a peculiarly opportune one for an enemy to have winged his arrow to a vital point in Canadian reputation and Canadian credit. It was a time when the money market in Great Britain was peculiarly sensitive. It had for two years been sustaining the strain of losses and liquidations in South America and of liquidations at home, and was agitated by the possibilities and premonitions of financial hardship, and perhaps financial disaster in different parts of Europe. It was a time when criticism of colonial finance was much the fashion in Great Britain, and was somewhat unfavourable, owing to the late attempts which have been made, not always successfully, by the Australian colonies to float loans on the money market, and which had in most cases resulted unfavourably to themselves. It was a time when, as I have stated, Canada herself had temporary loans running, amounting to $10,000,000, which had to be continued or renewed in one form or another. It was a time when many meritorious enterprises were upon the London market, which, if they could be realized, would tend to the development of the resources of Canada in a material degree. It was a time, too, when owing to the fine and abundant harvest of last year emigrants from the various centres of Great Britain were being led to look to Canada, and to our North-West particularly, as a future home for themselves and their families. It was a time, when a friend of Canada, if he had nothing good to say, would have held his peace, or if he could have presented one truth to have buoyed up and sustained the position of Canada, would have thought it his duty to do so. It was a time when an enemy would have dipped his arrow in poison and winged it as straight as he could to the vital part of Canadian credit and reputation in the old country. He was wickedly wise too in his choice of the instrument through which to make his attack. He chose a financial paper, one of the first in Great Britain which circulates among monied men, and through its utterances and representations has great influence and great weight in

determining the mind of monied men towards any country or enterprise, and which is studied as well by influential factors and motors in the emigration from that country to this. Sir, I hold in my hand the document which, at this particular time and by this particular vehicle, has been not only sent broadcast in the *Economist* through Great Britain to do its work, but has actually been printed, probably by the writer himself—if not by him by one who was a no greater friend to Canada—and as a campaign document has been spread through Great Britain from one end to the other. What are the assertions contained in this document? They are assertions not new to us here, assertions stated over and over again from almost every platform in the country and on the floor of this House year after year, and exposed as often as they were uttered; but which going to the British public and the British people had far different weight attached to them from the name and position of the writer and from the fact that the phases of Canadian party politics and the facts relating thereto are not studied and are not well understood, as indeed they could scarcely be, by the people in Great Britain I suppose it is known to whom I refer, the gentleman sits opposite to me to-day, he was Finance Minister during the Liberal regime, he is to day the actual financial leader of his party, if not the potent leader of his party, he is the member for South Oxford (Sir Richard Cartwright). His statements, which may be read by any hon. member who chooses to do so, are familiar and well known, but I have arranged just half-a-dozen in a line of crescendo or climax, keeping the worst to the last. He declares in that document that during thirteen years Canada has trebled her taxation. This is not true. He declares there exists a tremendous exodus and very great depreciation in farm lands. That is an exaggeration, and what there is true in it is made all the more mischievous because he puts no facts of comparison along with the statement he makes. He declares there has been an immense increase in the aggregate debt of this country. The immense increase consists in this—he is speaking of federal matters, I suppose, and he means federal indebtedness—that in 1878 the amount per head paid for the federal indebtedness was $1.58, whilst in 1891 it was $1.76, an immense increase of just 18 cents per head during the period from 1878 to 1891. That document states that the great mass of the people, notably the farmers of Canada, are distinctly poorer than twelve years ago.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Hear, hear.

Mr. FOSTER. This is a fine statement to be made by the hon. gentleman and spread broadcast throughout Great Britain, from which we get the greater part, I may say the better part, of the immigration which comes to this country. He declares the census shows that Canada lost in the last ten years 1,500,000 of people. The census shows no such thing; but such a slight misrepresentation as that causes no scruples with the hon. gentleman, he makes his statement all the same. He declares that the agriculturists of this country have been simply bled white and that $60,000,000 are taken annually out of the pockets of the people for federal taxation.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. And more.

Mr. FOSTER. That, in connection with the hon. gentleman's statement that in thirteen years Canada has trebled her taxation, is probably the greatest of all the many great exaggerations of which the hon. gentleman, during the last five years, has been guilty. In 1878 the taxation of the country for revenue purposes was $17,841,938, or $4.37 per head. In 1891 it was $30,214,150, or $6 per head. The increase in taxation as to amount has therefore been but 70 per cent, and as to relative incidence but 37 per cent, instead of 200 per cent. In no country in the world do farmers pay less taxes than in Canada. He declares that bribery is a pure matter of business routine in Canada. The hon. gentleman may find something in his own experience to justify this statement; I would not contradict that, but if he means that assertion to apply to the Canadian Government, as at present constituted, or as it has been constituted since 1878, I give it my emphatic denial. He affirmed, Sir, that public life in Canada is disgraced by an intolerable and organized corruption, unknown to the people of England since the days of Walpole, or Charles the Second, and he winds up by declaring that it is utterly impossible for Canada to prosper under present conditions; that, "if there is no change, Confederation must perish, rotten before it had time to become half ripe, as a result of the vice and the folly with which its affairs have been administered." That, Sir, is the hon. gentleman's contribution. A more unfounded, a more unjustifiable and a more mischievous attempt to ruin the reputation and credit of his country in another land is, happily, not to be found in the annals of modern political history. Now, I say that the hon. gentleman can have but one motive in penning that letter and publishing it as he has published it. His presumed motive for taking his case at all before the British public, was, that he might explain to the British public what he meant by this policy which for the last five years he has been endeavouring to thrust upon the people of Canada, and which was as intolerable to the thinking

British public as it was to the thinking Canadian public. That, Sir, might have been a good and valid excuse for the hon. gentleman to have explained his policy and defended it before the British public, but it was no excuse for him taking up more than half of his letter in this vilification and unwarranted abuse of the people, the politics, the reputation and the credit of Canada. He could have but one motive, and that motive was to transfer the partisan operations carried on during the last five years in fruitless fields comparatively upon this side, to the other side of the water, from which we draw our sympathy, where we look for large capital to develop this country, and where the credit and reputation of Canada count as a great factor in our future progress and development. These same misrepresentations the hon. gentleman has brought forth before the electorate of Canada time and again for the last five or six years. He has given them utterance on almost every hustings in the country, and wherever he has uttered them, almost without fail in these latter days, the people have repudiated him. Now, the hon. gentleman, foiled, disappointed and baulked in his programme of veiled annexation in Canada—I quote the words, and if not the words the exact meaning of the gentleman whom he owned as leader for six or seven years in this House—foiled and baulked and disappointed in that, he has nothing better to do than to transfer his base of operations to the mother country and give there one final stab as strong as he can at the credit, the reputation and the vitality of his native country. I thought it my duty to call the attention of the House and the country to this matter. I brand the action of the hon. gentleman as unprecedented, as unjustifiable, as uncalled for, and as most unpatriotic; but which, from a party point of view, I present to hon. gentlemen opposite with this single remark: That so long as they retain their affiliation in politics with a gentleman who adopts that method of warfare, just so long they will not have to seek far and wide for reasons why they are repudiated by the Canadian people and refused the reins of political power. They will find the explanations close at home in such actions as those I have noted.

Mr. LANDERKIN. Probably they will get a recount.

Mr. FOSTER. It would take a great many recounts to have the hon. gentleman who interrupts me straightened up.

THE CONDITION OF TRADE.

I pass from that little episode to a more pleasing subject to the House in general, and one which will prove, I am sure, a complete refutation of the misrepresentations I have just noticed, and I will enquire for a few moments as to the conditions of trade as developed by the operation of the past and of the current year so far as it has gone. I do this, largely because the assertion is very frequently made inside this House and out of it, that the trade of Canada is actually diminishing, and that since the operations of the McKinley Bill and the making of treaties consequent upon that legislation, Canadian trade is being hampered and Canada as a country is becoming isolated and restricted in her area of business transactions. Well, Sir, if we take the aggregate trade of last year we will find that it remained at about the same figure as that of the preceding year, which, however, we must not forget was in advance of about $14,000,000 upon the year preceding that. The imports, however, are nearly $2,000,000 less than in 1890, caused mainly by larger productions for our own home market as a result of tariff legislation, and as a result of the development of our manufacturing industries. Take, for instance, as a matter of tariff legislation. We find that there is a decrease, in round numbers, of $800,000 in the importations of pork and pork products from the United States in 1891, as compared with 1890. That does not mean that our people have consumed or produced less pork products, but it means that the pork products which before, under lower tariff, came in from the United States of America and displaced or supplied the demand for our own products, have been kept out to that extent; and that this demand is now supplied by home production to the benefit of the consumer and producer as well. The following table will make this clear:

IMPORTS FROM UNITED STATES INTO CANADA.

—	1890.	1891.	Decrease.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Bacon, hams and shoulders	4,353,653	2,570,412	1,783,241
Beef	6,445,105	2,715,101	3,730,004
Mutton	246,363	6,388	239,975
Pork	17,185,794	11,116,948	6,068,846
Lard	4,881,786	991,455	3,890,331
	33,112,701	17,400,504	15,712,197
Value	$1,734,225	$973,312	$760,913

The total exports, however, of this past year amounting to $98,417,296 show an increase of $1,668,147 over 1890; so that, while the imports have decreased for the causes I have mentioned, our exports show a gratifying extension, especially when you find that

compared with the exports of the preceding year of 1889 they exceed these by the large sum of $89,228,129. An increase of nearly $10,000,000 in exports in two years during the very period of this threatened and much-talked of legislation which was to have hindered and restricted us, is very gratifying to any one who looks upon the matter from a fair and reasonable standpoint. The export of the last year is the largest of any year since Confederation, with the exception of 1882. It is nearly $14,000,000 more than the average yearly export since Confederation, and $17,700,000 more than the average annual export during the regime of hon. gentlemen opposite. As further confirmation of the favourable trend discernible in this, I may mention this fact to the House: That although the exports last year reached that high water mark and were $10,000,000 above the exports of 1889, yet in the eight months of the current year the exports are higher than the exports of the eight months corresponding of last year by about $10,000,000. This means that if the proportionate increase holds till the end of the year, the exports for 1891-92 will be about $13,000,000 or $14,000,000 greater than the exports of last year, which were $10,000,000 more than the exports of 1889. It is a circumstance which I have noted, and which may be interesting in itself, that there is scarcely a dollar's difference between the exports of the eight months of the current year which I have mentioned and those of the twelve months of the last year that my hon. friend was Finance Minister in the Government of Mr. Mackenzie. This statement is immensely strengthened, and will be by that much the more reassuring to the country, by the reflection that since 1873 the value of articles of export and import has decreased by about one-third, and that to find the comparative volume of trade now as compared with that date you must add fully one-third to the figures of the present trade. This, Sir, would make the trade of 1891 about $290,000,000 on the basis of the values of 1873 as compared with the trade of the latter year. Our total trade has increased with the United States, Germany, Spain, Italy, Newfoundland, the West Indies, China and Japan. It has decreased slightly with Great Britain, France, Portugal, Holland, Belgium, South America and Switzerland. Our export trade, however, has increased largely, that with Great Britain being $11,000,000 in excess of 1889, and that with the West Indies having increased in the same time by about $500,000. Our exports to the United States, as compared with those of 1889, show a decrease of $2,400,000. I have a table here which I will read, simply to show the trend of trade within the last few years, and to give us hope and confidence that neither the McKinley Bill nor any other of a like nature necessarily bars the current of Canada's export trade or the current of its general business. Comparing 1888 with 1891, our exports of animals and their products to the United States fell from $7,595,000 to $4,316,000, a decrease of 43 per cent, whereas the exports of the same products to Great Britain rose from $16,500,000 in 1888 to $21,000,000 in 1891, an increase of 27 per cent. The exports of agricultural products to the United States fell from $10,000,000 in 1888 to $7,000,000 in 1891, a decrease of 30 per cent, while those sent to England rose from $4,292,000 in 1888 to $5,254,000 in 1891, an increase of 22 per cent. If you take the total exports in 1888 and compare them with those of 1891, there was a decrease of 3½ per cent in those sent to the United States and an increase of 22 per cent in those sent to England.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Are these the products of Canada alone, or the total exports?

Mr. FOSTER. These are the home productions of Canada alone. There is another indication contradictory of this theory or assertion that trade is stagnant in Canada. It is found in the record of the railways and shipping of Canada, as shown in the following table:

RAILWAYS IN CANADA.

Year.	Miles Operated.	Train Mileage.	Number Passengers.	Tons Freight.	Earnings.
					$
1875	4,826	17,680,168	5,190,416	5,670,836	19,470,539
1880	6,891	22,427,449	6,462,948	9,938,858	23,561,447
1889	12,628	38,819,380	12,151,051	17,928,626	42,149,615
1890	13,256	41,849,329	12,821,262	20,787,469	46,843,826
1891	14,007	43,334,891	13,164,420	21,727,025	48,139,980
Increase, 1891 over 1875	145 p. c.	153 p. c.	283 p. c.		147 p. c.

SHIPPING IN CANADA.

Year.	Tonnage of Vessels in and out, exclusive of Coasting.	Tonnage of Vessels in and out, Coasting.
1879	11,646,812	12,066,683
1889	16,054,221	19,834,977
1890	18,446,100	22,797,115
1891	18,803,648	24,986,130
Increase, 1891 over 1879	61 p. c.	107 p. c.

In 1875 we had 4,826 miles in operation; in 1891 we had 14,007 miles in operation. The train mileage in the same time rose from 17,680,168 miles to 43,334,891 miles, an increase of 145 per cent. The passengers increased from 5,190,416 to 13,164,420,

an increase of 153 per cent. The freight increased from 5,670,836 tons to 21,727,025 tons, an increase of 283 per cent. The earnings increased from $19,470,539 to $48,139,980, an increase of 147 per cent. These figures effectually demonstrate the absurdity of the contention that the trade of Canada is not on a constant and progressive increase.

Mr. LANDERKIN. The railways are not controlled by the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. That is a very wise and sapient remark, and I earnestly commend it to all my hon. friends on this side of the House. I hope they will not be overcome by its sapiency.

Mr. LANDERKIN. I beg pardon. The Intercolonial Railway is controlled by the Government.

Mr. FOSTER. Taking also the shipping, which is another branch of our carrying trade, we find that in 1879 the tonnage of vessels in and out, seagoing and inland, exclusive of coasting vessels, rose from 11,646,812 tons in 1879 to 18,803,648 in 1891, an increase of 61 per cent. The tonnage of coasting vessels in and out rose from 12,066,683 tons in 1879 to 24,986,130 tons in 1891, an increase of 107 per cent. These, too, are conclusive indications of the business and trade activity and development of this country. So that, looking at these indications of the increase of both our foreign and interprovincial trade, the conclusion is forced upon us that there has been a great and progressive increase in the general trade and commerce of Canada. In passing, I wish to speak for a moment of the different large steamship services of Canada not by way of going exhaustively at all into the operations of the past year, but merely to say that in the Pacific coast and the West Indies steamship lines, there has been a constant and gratifying increase, both in the passengers carried and in the freight delivered. The steamship service to the West Indies, especially during this last year, appears to have given excellent satisfaction, and to have been a principal factor in developing a largely increased trade between our country and those different islands. With reference to the Atlantic fast steamship service, during the past year tenders were again called for. In answer to our calls but two tenders were received, both of which were, in the opinion of the Government, beyond what could reasonably be expended by this country for a fast Atlantic service; so that, though the policy of the Government has not changed, the circumstances have made it impossible for us as yet to establish that service. I may state, also, that in accordance with my intimation given in the House last year on an item in the Estimates, I have this year made a beginning in the way of establishing corresponding commercial agencies in different ports and countries, somewhat on the consular plan, without, of course, diplomatic standing or diplomatic responsibility. At the present time we have as commercial agents in Paris, in Great Britain, in the principal centres of the West Indian Islands, gentlemen whose services are enlisted for the purpose of giving all possible information by correspondence and by reports, to be sent to the department and to be published in bulletin form, as to the opportunities that exist for trade and commerce between those different countries and Canada; and I have no doubt that this service will develop gradually into one of great practical benefit to the mercantile classes of our own country and the different countries with which we establish trade relations.

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

The feature of the year outside of Canada has been the wide arrangement of commercial tariffs, and the changed principle upon which commercial intercourse between different countries is regulated. Within the last few months we have had France moving to do away with every treaty in which a most-favoured-nation clause was found, giving notice as to all such which were about to expire, and denouncing them at the period of expiry; and by the 1st of July, 1892, every treaty, with one exception, which runs for another year in addition, that France had with other countries, embodying the most-favoured nation clause and carrying the obligations of that clause, will have been done away with. The French Government has legislated in the line of a double tariff: a minimum tariff, sufficient, in its opinion, to protect French industries, for it is constructed upon the protective basis and which shall be granted to those countries who give like or compensating concessions to France, and a general tariff which is applicable to all other countries. Trade arrangements, based upon the minimum tariff, are subject to denouncement or change, at once or upon a year's notice, so that none of the disturbing and sometimes embarrassing complications which attach to the most-favoured-nation clause will, after the 1st of July next, be in the way of the commerce of France with other countries. Consequent upon this has followed a rearrangement among other European countries, Prussia, Austro-Hungary, Switzerland and Italy making a treaty among themselves, by which certain products are mutually charged a lower rate of duties, thus stimulating, so far as they could in that direction, trade among those four great countries. Then we have seen

the United States of America, by virtue of the third clause of the McKinley Act, entering into a series of treaties with other countries. Up to the present time the following have been promulgated ;—with Brazil, with Spain for Cuba and Porto Rico, with the British West Indies, with the Dominican Republic, with Salvador, Germany, France and Nicaragua, giving these countries in exchange for certain reductions and the placing of certain articles upon the free list, the benefit of allowing hides, coffee, sugar and molasses to come into the United States free of duty. In all these changes, what has been the result, so far as Canadian interests and trade are concerned? In the first place, I may say that with reference to France, we stand in about the same position as we did before. We had before to pay a surtax, over and above the rate charged Great Britain, on our colonial produce exported to that country. To-day we are under the operations of the general tariff. With reference to the treaty which has been arranged between Prussia, Austro-Hungary, Italy and Switzerland, whatever benefits accrue from it by the way of lessening duties, accrue to Canada as well by virtue of the most-favoured-nation clause in treaties with Germany and Austro-Hungary, so that the benefits of lessened duties upon certain articles under their lately arranged treaty inure as well to the products of Canada coming under the same schedule. With reference to the treaties which have been made by the United States, as far as Cuba and Porto Rico are concerned, we have the advantage of the most-favoured-nation treatment until the 1st of July of this year. Negotiations are now in progress with a view of having continued to us the same favourable terms; and there is nothing, so far as the tariff of our country is concerned, in its treatment of products of Cuba and Porto Rico which should induce them to give any better terms to the United States of America than to Canada, as we allow their products in, on the whole, on a more favoured basis than even the United States. With regard to the British West Indies, no discrimination was -I will not say allowed but hinted at in the arrangement of the treaty between them and the United States of America; and I think we owe to the British West India Islands this acknowledgment of their fair and manly and brotherly spirit, that in making a treaty which they considered to be of very great benefit to themselves, and in which considerable pressure was brought to induce them to give better treatment to the goods of the United States than to Canadian and British goods, they adhered to the Colonial and Imperial system of treating sister colonies and the mother country on the same basis as they treat others. With reference to the Dominican Republic, as I have stated, although our trade with the Republic is not very large, we happen to have the benefit of the most-favoured-nation clause. So that Brazil is the only country outside of those I have mentioned in which our products, for the time being, in certain lines, are placed at a disadvantage as compared with those of the United States, and I may say that negotiations are now in progress, which I hope will eventuate in our products being placed on the same footing as those of the United States in the markets of Brazil.

THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE.

Naturally, this review of treaty arrangements and their results upon Canada, leads up to the conference which took place not long since in Washington between delegates of the Canadian Government and representatives of the Cabinet of the United States, with reference to trade relations. The House is seized of the correspondence and the facts with reference to the steps which brought about the ultimate and completed conference; and on the 10th of February of this year, by appointment of the Secretary of State, a delegation from the Canadian Government went to Washington and met the Secretary of State in conference. I may say this, and I think it is nothing more than right to say it, that Mr. Blaine met us with the greatest kindness and courtesy. Although not in the enjoyment of robust health, and although he was in the midst of the arduous duties of a session of Congress, in the midst of diplomatic correspondence of a weighty and grave character, he gave up his time to the delegation from Canada and for five successive days met them in full and frank and prolonged conference upon the various points treated of between the two. I will say nothing as regards the other points discussed, which have already been more or less fully laid before Parliament, but with reference to the discussion of the trade question I think it my duty to make Parliament acquainted with what took place and the results therefrom. In conference with Mr. Blaine, the Canadian delegation proposed, as a basis for negotiation, the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854, with such modifications and extensions as the changed condition of both countries might render necessary and desirable, and pressed the conclusion of a treaty upon that basis. They were met with the reply from Mr. Blaine that a proposal looking to a treaty based upon natural products alone had not in it the essential elements of reciprocity, so far as the United States are concerned, and consequently they were unable to entertain it. He raised the question, as did also General Foster, who was his coadjutor in the conference, as to whether we were prepared to

make a proposal which would go wider than natural products, and take in and include a general reciprocity in manufactured articles as well. When that point came up, the Canadian delegation immediately raised the question and discussed it fully and freely with Mr. Blaine as to what would be the necessary conditions of such a reciprocity. Did it mean that we were to give United States products and manufactures preferential treatment in our country and discriminate against like articles from Great Britain and from other parts of the world? and the reply came, after a full discussion of the matter, that a reciprocity treaty would have no compensating advantages to the United States of America unless they were given preferential treatment in our markets especially against Great Britain, which was their chief competitor in nearly every line of manufactured goods, that under any scheme of reciprocity which could be looked upon favourably by them, the United States would expect to compete with Canadian manufactures in Canadian markets on even terms, but with no others. Well, when that point was reached, discussion took place as to the difficulties to be met by Canada in subscribing to a treaty of that kind, and they were fully and frankly laid before Mr. Blaine. They were, in brief, these: that in going into a treaty of that kind we should stand to lose what we were less able to lose than the United States of America, a considerable proportion of our revenue; first, the eight millions or so which we collected upon the products of the United States that came into Canada; and, secondly, the diminution, whatever it might be, which would result in the imports from the outside world owing to the competition and entrance of United States goods free of duty into our country. Mr. Blaine raised the question whether we had not other methods of taxation. We explained that we had methods of taxation by internal revenue as they themselves had, upon which he remarked that it would be necessary in a treaty of this kind that these inland revenue duties on liquors and tobaccos should be equalized; and that immediately brought up the point that, if they were equalized and if the United States were not willing to level up to our rates, Canada would stand to lose a large amount of revenue in excise duties, inasmuch as our rates are much higher than those of the United States. We also pointed out the grave difficulty which met us in discriminating against the goods of Great Britain with whom, as a colony, we had close and intimate relations, and the repugnance felt against drawing a cordon about ourselves against the world with the exception of the United States. At this point another question came up. Suppose that Canada were willing to discriminate against the goods of the outside world and of Great Britain on this proposed basis of a treaty, who should fix the discrimination and what should be the measure of that discrimination? And as an illustration the article of wool and of woollens was instanced, in which the duties on the raw material vary in both countries as well as do the duties on the manufactured goods. Mr. Blaine admitted at once that this was a vital point, that the United States had its policy of protection, of large protection for both wools and woollen goods, and that unless this vital point were guarded there would be no security to the United States on the one hand against smuggling along a line 3,000 miles in extent, and no security, on the other hand, for the permanence and preservation of the policy of protection which they, up to this time, had maintained, and which they proposed to maintain, and that he saw no way out of the difficulty unless the tariff of Canada were made uniform with that of the United States. Well, Sir, this question passed on in discussion until we had pretty well exhausted the subject, when the Canadian delegates, after having presented these difficulties and canvassed them fairly and thoroughly, said to Mr. Blaine: These are our difficulties; you acknowledge them. Now, you have had large experience in framing reciprocity treaties and have had much to do in the study and arrangements of reciprocal matters; we lay these points before you and we ask whether or not, out of your experience, you cannot see your way to propose a modification of this basis in order that we may diminish, at least to some extent, the difficulties we are under as to loss of revenue, as to discrimination, and as to a uniform tariff; and, after discussion of some time, we received an answer from Mr. Blaine, that while he acknowledged our difficulties, he was clear in his own mind that no other arrangement would be satisfactory to the United States of America, that their manufactures must have preferential treatment, including, of course, discrimination against foreign countries and especially against Great Britain, that there must be a uniform tariff, and that that tariff must be practically the tariff of the United States of America. With this remark, we passed on to other points in discussion and we did not thereafter recur to the trade question. This is, in brief, a fair and candid account of what took place at the conference.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE.

I think it is only necessary for me to put in brief the results, and they are simply these:

that so long as the present party and the present policy is maintained in the United States, in one branch or the other of the Legislature or in the Executive, we cannot hope for any treaty with the United States, except upon these lines, viz., a treaty which will take in both natural products and manufactured goods; a treaty unlimited in its scope, of which the basis is a preferential treatment in our market with discrimination especially against Great Britain and against other countries; a treaty that must be accompanied by a uniform tariff, and this tariff equalized with that of the United States of America. These are in brief the results which have been arrived at. During years of discussion from the time the old reciprocity treaty was denounced in 1865 to the present time, there have been various ideas put forward, there have been various plans submitted, there have been assertions and counter assertions of what could be done, there have been several proposals made, but up to this date we have been unable to get any one of our proposals adopted by the United States, or to get one counter proposal from them. Now the matter is settled. It is settled in point of clearness and definiteness. I, for my own part, regret that it is settled as it is, and still I am glad that it is settled at all. I regret that no *modus* can be found by which profitable trade relations could be established between these two countries, without our being called upon to sacrifice too much of Canadian interests and too much of Canadian nationality. I am glad, however, that from this time forward there need be no lack of definiteness, for all parties and all interests in Canada may now know exactly the basis upon which a treaty can be obtained or cannot be obtained.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I would like to ask the Minister whether the deputation at Washington made any report to His Excellency or to their colleagues, on their return, that can be laid before Parliament? I think, Sir, it is a very unusual thing to enter into such a discussion on this occasion.

Mr. FOSTER. My hon. friend is the unusual feature on this occasion.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). Well, Mr. Speaker,——

Mr. FOSTER. The hon. gentleman should not rise and interrupt me.

Mr. SPEAKER. The hon. member for Bothwell is rising to a point of order.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I think the rule is, that when a matter of this sort is being discussed, there shall be some official report laid upon the Table of the House as a basis for discussion. The hon. gentleman has referred to negotiations that have taken place, and no report whatever of those negotiations has been laid before Parliament. In the case of a British Minister residing abroad, the practice is for him to make a report of the interview, that report is sent to the Foreign Secretary and is brought down to Parliament. Now, Sir, if the Government adopt the usual course, instead of sending an agent to select certain members of the Government to go themselves, it is the business of those members of the Government to report to the executive head of the Government, and it is the right of Parliament to have that report laid before them. Now, there is no such report whatever before us. We have no means of judging of the statements made by the hon. gentleman except what he says in the speech he is addressing to the House. I say that it is a highly irregular proceeding, and before the hon. gentleman undertook to make such a statement to the House he ought to have made a report to His Excellency or to his colleagues, and that report should be officially before the House.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The hon. gentleman has declared that he is speaking on a question of order.

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). I am.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I submit whether the hon. gentleman has not completely refuted his own statement by the fact that when he rose the first thing he did was to ask a question of the Minister of Finance——

Mr. MILLS (Bothwell). So I did.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON—upon which to base a point of order, and he got no reply to that question. Now, Sir, I submit to you whether there is any rule, any practice, any authority of any description whatever, which restricts a Minister of the Crown from stating that which has transpired on a mission on which he has been sent by competent authority. There is nothing of the kind, I submit, in the usages of Parliament; there is absolutely nothing of the kind in diplomatic usage, or the practice which prevails between Ministers and the Executive. If a Minister of the Crown makes a statement that is not authorized by His Excellency to be made, or which has not been communicated to him—if it should have been communicated to him—that is a matter of responsibility between the Minister and the head of the Executive. But it is the right and privilege of every member, whether he be a Minister of the Crown or a private member of the House, to give to the

House that information on public questions which he possesses, whether anybody else has had it communicated to him or not.

Mr. LAURIER. The question put by my hon. friend to the Minister of Finance has not been answered, unless he means to say that he is now making, in his speech, a report of the negotiations which took place at Washington. I submit that if the Minister wanted to refer in his speech on this occasion to the facts which he is now disclosing, he should have first laid them before the House in the form of a Message.

Mr. SPEAKER. As I understand the matter, I think the statement made by the Minister of Finance was perfectly in order. I know of no more opportune time than the delivery of the Budget, to deal with these questions with which the Minister of Finance is dealing. He is making statements as to the result of trade negotiations between this Government and the Government of the United States, and I know of no rule of Parliament that would prevent him from making those statements.

Mr. FOSTER. I thank the hon. member for Bothwell for two things: one, for giving me even so short a period of rest; and the other, for his very full indication of his own disturbed feelings at this time. Generally the hon. member for Bothwell is thirsting for information, but to-day he seems to be so full that he does not require further information. We are never too old to learn, as the saying goes, but I am forced to conclude now that my hon. friend is either too old to learn, or does not wish to learn any more. I was proceeding to remind the House, when I was interrupted, that we have now acquired a definite statement as to the real basis upon which a treaty with the United States of America was possible. I was going on to say that I was glad that it was settled, although I regretted that it was settled in that way.

CANADA'S COURSE AND PROSPECTS.

For several years the commerce of this country, the business of the country, and the prosperity of the country, have been affected by an agitation which contemplated a very grave change in the commercial and other conditions of Canada. An agitation was set on foot which promised certain things, and held out in roseate language a certain prospect as the result of what could be accomplished, and this continual agitation, and placing before the people the idea of great changes from which they were to get great advantages — which were impossible of fulfilment — cannot but have had a detrimental effect upon the business and progress of the country. I am glad for this reason that this is now settled, and that Canadians can now turn their faces to the future with a definite idea of what they have to do for themselves and what they may expect from those who live close beside us. For my own part I am not at all afraid to face the future, and to encounter what it has in store for us as to the development and progress of Canada. If the Canadian farmer is to be debarred in great part from a market in the United States for his products, which market at the best is partial, sectional and variable, he will at least have this satisfaction, that under due and adequate protection he will not be exposed to the great and dangerous competition, in the products of this country, from the great western country of the United States. He can prepare himself to find a market for his wares in other countries where they get more favourable entrance, and he can especially prepare himself to enter fully upon that almost inexhaustible market which awaits him for all his products in Great Britain, our mother land. In that country, already, by force of good quality and by prudence in selection, his apples, his cheese, his wheat, his cattle, his bacon and ham, find large and constantly increasing markets, and have to-day secured a permanent place in the market, and practically overtop all competition. And what has been done for these in the British market, by the same careful selection, and the same force of quality, can be done for the beans, the barley, the oats, the lambs, the butter, the poultry, the eggs and all the other great products that the farmer in this country raises, and of which Great Britain takes large and increasing quantities. If the Canadian manufacturer cannot have a fair entrance into the markets of the United States, where he would, of course, meet with strong competition from the accumulations of skill and capital that are there, he can, at least under the shelter of a proper protection, supply the great and growing home market for manufactures, and with a stability ensured at home, he can push his wares into those countries where they find entrance on more favourable terms. I was speaking, Sir, a moment ago as to the English market in connection with the farm products of this country. I have here a table, in which I give the figures in round numbers, not going into particulars, and I find Great Britain in 1891 imported for consumption in that country, in quantity, as follows:— Bacon, 380,000,000 lbs.; salt beef, 27,000,000 lbs.; fresh beef, 224,000,000 lbs.; hams, 135,000,000 lbs.; mutton, 136,000,000 lbs.; pork, 40,000,000 lbs.; butter, 240,000,000 lbs.; cheese, 230,000,000 lbs.;

eggs, 106,000,000 doz.; apples, 3,000,000 bbls.; potatoes, 640,000,000 lbs.; and in value, poultry, $2,000,000; wheat, $145,000,000; wheat flour, $50,000,000; barley, $29,000,000; oats, $26,000,000; peas, $4,500,000; beans, $6,000,000. There, Mr. Speaker, is a market which is easily reached, and possesses the feature of stable permanence in that it is subject to the minimum of home competition, of variation and fluctuation in the way of tariff imposts put upon it from one year to the other, a market made up largely from the non-producing classes, in these respects, who are constantly at work in the hives of busy industry and are continually calling on this country and other countries like situated for food supplies, to make that muscle, brawn and sinew with which they do the manufacturing for so large a portion of the world. We have in that country, besides, a discriminating market, where the best wares are quickly taken at the best prices, and where the material in goods or money is always at hand to pay for that which they purchase. So, Sir, I say we may face towards the old country, and for our varied products, exploit those markets which are sure to prove profitable from their constant, and, indeed growing demands. And it may also be that, in the near future, considering this war of tariffs, which is taking place the wide world over, considering the discriminating benefits which are given by some countries and denied by others, it may be worth the careful and thoughtful attention of the Government as to whether or not the time is not approaching, if it is not near at hand, when it will become the duty of this Government to hold out the hand of help to those that help us, to repay favour with favour and interest with interest, and to give the best treatment in our markets to those countries which afford to us the best treatment in their markets.